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galleys; for 5000 to 10,000, two years; 10,000 to 20,000, two years and a half; 20,000 to 40,000, three years; 40,000 to 60,000, three years and a half; 60,000 to 100,000, four years.

"All governors and other officers, whether military or legal, who are guilty of corruption or injustice, are to make full reparation to the amount of the injury, and to be afterwards imprisoned, by way of punishment, for different periods, according to the extent of the offence.

"Assassins, murderers, and coiners, are sentenced to the galleys for life."

C'est ainsi qu'en partant je vous fais mes adieux.  
X.

London, January 26, 1890.

The last week was rather a busy one among the publishers; Colburn and Bentley, who send out works with almost as much rapidity as a Manchester manufacturer turns out cotton goods, published five or six new books, two of which are, from their nature, calculated to excite interest. These are: *Lander's Records of Captain Clapperton's Last Expedition*, and *Colman's Random Records*. It is generally known that Mr. Lander, who recently sailed from this country with his brother, on an expedition to Africa, under the orders of government, was servant to Captain Clapperton in the expedition which cost that enterprising traveller his life. Mr. Lander, who seems to be a man of strong mind, now publishes these accounts, which, if Captain Clapperton had lived, would have been given to the world by that gentleman, they are full of interest, and I might add, were it not for the painful accounts of illness and suffering endured by the travellers, highly amusing. It is impossible, however, to peruse without pain, a narrative which describes the deaths of every member of the expedition, except the author, who, but too probably, is destined to pay the forfeit of his enterprise in the present undertaking. The account which he gives of his being courted by a wealthy and fat black widow, named Zuma, who fancied herself a fit wife for a white man because she happened to be herself one shade lighter than the blackest inhabitant of the town in which she lived, is very ludicrous. This lady, who owned a thousand slaves, and who was beloved by the king, warmly besieged the heart of Mr. Lander, and finding herself repulsed, transferred her affections to Captain Clapperton, with whom she was equally unsuccessful. When Captain Clapperton quitted the place of her residence, she followed him, and was near sacrificing the life of her adored, owing to the jealousy of the monarch, both travellers however escaped; one for a short time, and the other to return in safety to Europe. Mr. Colman's *Records* are interesting as mere reminiscences of a man who has lived in all sorts of society, but they are ill written and will not attract much notice.—Among novels, that which is most talked of is, *The Lost Heir*, by Mr. Power, of Covent Garden Theatre. The story turns upon a conspiracy said to have been formed by four persons to rob a child of its inheritance. The advertisements announcing the appearance of this book, inform us that the story is founded on fact, and that the parties are now living, whether this be so or not we cannot determine, it is, at any rate, a well written work, and must take a leading place in every circulating library. Mr. Moore's

Life of Byron continues to sell well, but it is questionable whether it will do more than repay the publisher his outlay. The public are told that Mr. Moore received £4000 for the manuscript of this work, and this I can readily believe, knowing, as I do, that he was offered £500 for a single article as a contribution to the *Keepsake*. It is with literary men as with those of every other profession, they receive something for their labour, but the great bulk for the reputation which they have acquired. It is said by those who must know the fact, that there are now living eight favourite authors who do not receive, collectively, less than £50,000 per annum for their contributions. There is very little news in the literary world, the chief topic of conversation is the Chancery suit relative to the Opera which Rossini undertook to write when he was in this country. It is scarcely credible, that although two thirds of this opera, for which he was to receive, when finished, one thousand pounds, are completed, the *Maestro* is too indolent to write the remainder, and seeks to recover possession of his manuscript, and of £400 which he is said to have deposited as a guarantee for the performance of his contract.

#### PRIVATE LETTER.

London, Tuesday Evening.

You may consider yourself fortunate, my dear President, in having prompt friends in this Babylon of the nations. What we lack in wit we shall make up in zeal; and I take credit to myself for being the first to transmit the true intelligence of the Election at the Royal Academy, about which the Courier has made so great a blunder, and been copied by divers of his brethren. Wilkie, you must know, is not the man. On Monday night the members met in the Council Chamber—and, as these things 'are a care unto us,' we were there, and like faithful spirits hasten to communicate with you touching the result. They proceeded to the election of a President in the room of the late lamented Sir Thomas, and the decision of the Academicians was in favour of OUR GIFTED COUNTRYMAN, MARTIN ARTHUR SHEE.

Mr. Shee as a portrait painter, cannot be said to hold the highest rank, even in this department of art, which is often designated, as the *inferior*, but to which we are, after all, mainly indebted for the high station British art holds on the continent. It may therefore be a matter of astonishment to many, that the choice did not fall upon a more distinguished artist—his Portraits are not equal to those of some long established favourites—yet his *drawing* is always graceful, and his likenesses correct. The President of our Royal Academy is the connecting link, as it were, between the nobility and the professors of art. Mr. Shee is not only a gentleman—but an *Irish* gentleman, consequently the most perfect gentleman that can be imagined—equally free from the frivolity of the French and the stiffness of the English. We imagine that to this circumstance, in a great degree, he is indebted for his present elevation—he is also gifted with the power of producing effect upon an audience by ease of delivery, and eloquence of language. Mr. Shee is known as a poet of no ordinary talent—his "Rhymes on Art" have been and are deservedly popular. We have heard him "pour forth eloquent discourse" at dinners of the "Artists benevolent fund," and we feel

assured that few men could deliver the academic lectures with greater ability or more credit. In private life he is much and deservedly esteemed.

Wilkie declined the contest, but is appointed principal painter in ordinary to his Majesty.—The poet Campbell is to be the biographer of the late president—and is about to visit the west of England to ascertain all and every thing worth knowing on the subject—he was the friend also of Sir Thomas Lawrence, and is well calculated for such an undertaking.

#### ROYAL IRISH ACADEMY.

The first general meeting of this learned body, for the year 1890, took place on Monday, the 25th of January; the Hon. and Rev. J. Pomeroy in the chair, Dr. Mac Donnell, F.T.C.D. acting secretary. Several members were ballotted for, and Baron Cuvier was admitted an honorary member. A place in the Council of polite literature and antiquities, vacated by the resignation of Doctor Robert Graves, the great ornament and support of our school of physic in Ireland, (who was, we exceedingly regret to hear, for a short time very alarmingly ill,) was also filled up; the election fell upon the Rev. Edward Johnston.

Professor Hamilton of our University, read a very curious and important paper upon Functions, from which it appears, that he has discovered a fundamental principle adopted by Lagrange, and all former writers on this subject, to be erroneous. We shall give an early notice of the contents of this paper, so interesting to men of science, as indeed every discovery must be, which comes from this most profound and extraordinary man.

An engraved fac-simile of the characters traced upon a brick of Babylon was exhibited; and a conjectural interpretation of some of the characters upon another, was submitted to the meeting. The seal of the Academy was affixed to the accounts prepared by the Treasurer, for the Commissioners of public accounts.

We rejoice to observe that both the purchases and premiums of the Academy, have latterly been so judiciously directed towards the acquisition of the best and most authentic information, on the History, Antiquities, and Literature of Ireland. Many of the recent additions to the library, have been most important. We sincerely congratulate the Academy on having secured, for so small a sum as fifty pounds, the invaluable English-Irish Dictionary, compiled by Crabb, and presented by the late Mr. Burton Conyngham, to General Vallancey. We shall give the very curious history of this M.S. volume, for which we are indebted to the learned and able historian of Galway, through whose intervention it was purchased, for the R. I. A. whenever our space will permit.

#### THE THEATRE.

THE Theatre re-opened on Monday evening, after a weeks recess, with Bickerstaffs Comedy of the Hypocrite, for the purpose of introducing Mr. Dowton, after an absence of two years, in the character of Doctor Cantwell, in which he has acquired so much and deserved celebrity. Our readers are aware that the part is an adaptation of the Tartuffe of Moliere, and had that great master of human nature witnessed Mr. Dowton's performance of the wily hypocrite on Monday night, he would have beheld the re-